



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
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Passage of Education Spending Bill Paves Way for Reform

The House yesterday paved the way for the most significant federal education reforms in decades by approving a bipartisan education spending bill that closely tracks H.R. 1, the *No Child Left Behind* Act.

The spending levels for education in the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations measure represents a bipartisan compromise between Republicans and Democrats. **The education funding increases are contingent on implementation of President Bush's education reforms**, which were approved by the House in May. H.R. 1 would hold states more accountable for improving student performance while providing greater flexibility for states and local schools and expanded options for parents.

H.R. 1 authorizes approximately \$23 billion for ESEA for FY 2002. While the House-passed bill already represents a dramatic increase over last year's education funding level, the Senate-passed bill calls for approximately \$32 billion for ESEA, an increase that could undermine the reforms at the heart of the President's education reform plan.

Rep. John Boehner, chairman of the 39-member House-Senate conference working to resolve differences between H.R. 1 and the Senate-passed version of the bill, pledged that conferees would work to target funding increases toward existing programs instead of using them to create dozens of new programs.

Message of the Day

President Bush's budget includes historic increases in education funding. But his plan is about reform, not just resources.

- ❑ *The President's plan refocuses federal education programs and concentrates federal resources where they can do the most good, helping disadvantaged students who would otherwise be left behind.*
- ❑ *Until we hold public schools using federal education dollars accountable and ensure that we get results, it is not wise to pursue massive increases in federal education spending.*
- ❑ *Washington has followed this approach in the past -- and many children have been trapped in failing schools.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- Washington has spent nearly \$130 billion since 1965 -- and more than \$80 billion in the past decade alone -- in an unsuccessful effort to close the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their more affluent peers.
- The President's plan refocuses federal education spending back toward its original goal of helping America's disadvantaged students by establishing a rigorous system of rewards and sanctions for states and school districts to hold them accountable for increasing student achievement.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Over the past quarter of a century, the federal government has spent \$125 billion dollars of taxpayers' money on Title I alone. ... But after all that spending, while there are pockets of excellence scattered across this country, overall, we have very little progress to show for it. Over the past decade, spending has skyrocketed, but student achievement at every level and in every subject barely budged." -- Education Secretary Rod Paige, September 4, 2001